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JOURNAL

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SPECIAL CONVENTION

OF THE

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF CALIFORNIA,

HELD IN GRACE CHURCH, SACRAMENTO, FEB. 5, 1857.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

A LIST OF THE CLERGY AND PARISHES

IN THE DIOCESE.

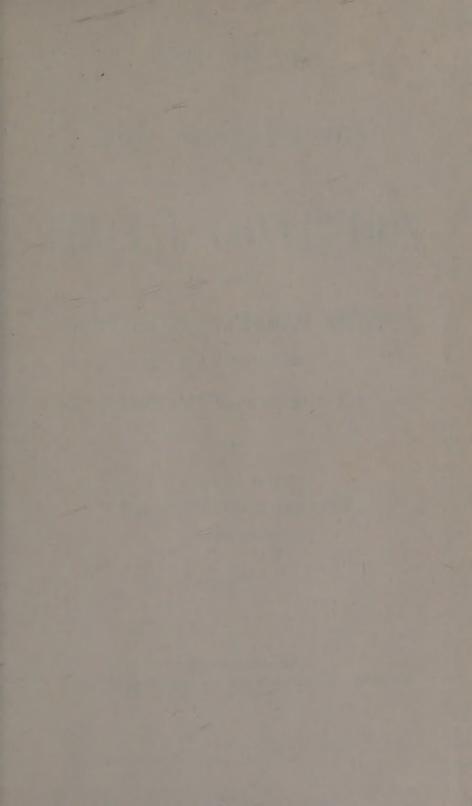
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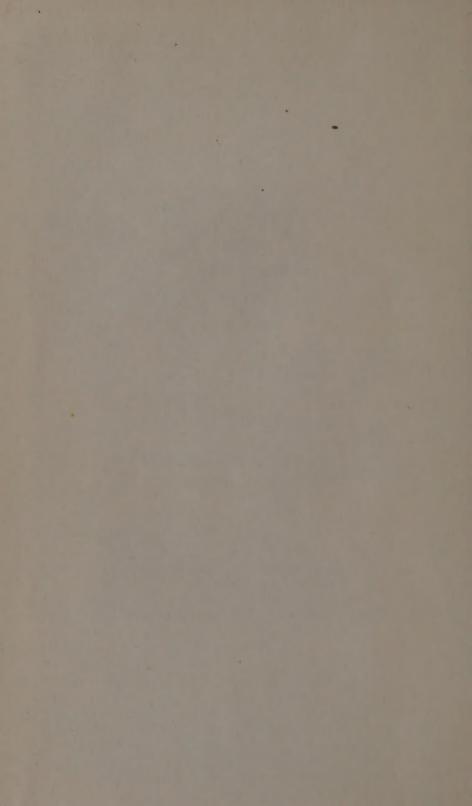
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LIST OF THE CLERGY

OF THE

DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA,

FEBRUARY, 1857.

The Right Rev. Wm. Ingraham Kip, D. D., Missionary Bishop of California, and Rector of Grace Church, San Francisco.

Rev. James W. Capen, Minister of St. John's Church, Oakland, and Missionary.

Rev. Orange Clark, D. D., Minister of St. John's Church, Fremont, Santa Clara Co.

Rev. Edmund D. Cooper, Minister of Trinity Church, Nevada, and Emmanuel Church, Grass Valley, and Missionary.

Rev. Elijah W. Hager, Rector of St. John's Church, Stockton.

Rev. Frederick W. Hatch, D. D., Minister of St. John's Church, Marysville.

Rev. William H. Hill, Rector of Grace Church, Sacramento.

Rev. Joseph S. Large, (suspended.)

Rev. David F. Macdonald, Minister of Emmanuel Church, Coloma, and Missionary.

Rev. J. Avery Shepherd, Rector of the Female Institute, San Francisco.

Rev. John L. Ver Mehr, L. L. D., Rector of St. Mary's Hall, San Francisco.

Rev. Christopher B. Wyatt, Rector of Trinity Church, San Francisco.

1 Bishop, 11 Presbyters.

LIST OF PARISHES IN UNION WITH THE CONVENTION:

Emmanuel Church,	Coloma, El Dorado County.
Emmanuel Church,	Grass Valley, Nevada County.
Christ Church	Auburn, Placer County.
Grace Church	Sacramento, Sacramento County.
Grace Church	San Francisco, San Francisco County.
St John's Church	
St John's Church	Fremont, Santa Clara County.
St. John's Church	Stockton, San Joaquin County.
St. John's Church	Oakland, Alameda County.
Church of the Sacraments	Sacramento, Sacramento County.
St. Paul's Church	Benicia, Solano County.
Trinity Church	Folsom, Sacramento County.
Trinity Church	Nevada, Nevada County.
Trinity Church,	San Francisco, San Francisco County.

LIST OF LAY DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION.

PARISHES.	DELEGATES.
EMMANUEL CHURCH, Coloma	*George Searle.
PARANOSI OZONOS,	*Erastus Woodruff,
	*Wm. H. Decker.
EMMANUEL CHURCH, Grass Valley,	Melville Atwood.
	*Richard Homfray.
	Geo. A. Montgomery.
CHRIST CHURCH, Auburn	W. T. Henson.
Target I Washington and a second	*R. D. Hopkins.
	Wm. H. Martin.
GRACE CHURCH, Sacramento	*Joseph W. Winans.
And the second s	*John B. Harmon.
	*John S. Bein.
GRACE CHURCH, San Francisco	*William Blanding.
Chick the street of the state of the state of	*David S. Turner.
	Stephen Smith.
St. John's Church, Fremont	R. W. Canfield.
	D. S. Gibbons.
	S. O. Putnam.
St. John's Church, Stockton	*C. D. Gibbs.
	*John A. Ferris.
	*Robert K. Eastman.
St. Paul's Church, Benicia	T. J. Cram, U. S. A.
Appeter and the party of the second	E. W. McKinstry.
	*Paul K. Hubbs.
TRINITY CHURCH, Folsom	*James S. Meredith.
	*A. C. Donaldson.
TRINITY CHURCH, Nevada	*Thomas H. Caswell.
	C. T. Overton.
	Charles Marsh.

* These Delegates appeared and took their seats.

JOURNAL

OF THE

Special Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church

IN CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY, 1857.

SACRAMENTO, Thursday Feb. 5, 1857.

The Right Rev. Wm. Ingraham Kip, D.D., Missionary Bishop of California, having, in pursuance of the power vested in him by Art. III of the Constitution of the Church in this Diocese, and in answer to a request made to him by sundry of the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese, called a Special Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of California, to meet on this day, the Rt. Rev. Bishop aforesaid, with a number of the Clergy and Laity, assembled for divine service at $10\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock A. M., in Grace Church, Sacramento, the place appointed by the Bishop for the meeting.

Morning Prayer was read by the Rev. E. W. Hager, assisted by the Rev. J. Avery Shepherd. The Lessons were read by the Rev. Edmund D. Cooper. The Ante-Communion Service and Gospel were read by the Rt. Rev. the Bishop—the Epistle being read by the Rev. O. Clark, D. D., who also assisted the Bishop in the administration of the Holy Communion. The Offertory was read by the Rev J. L. Ver Mehr, L. L. D. The Sermon

was preached by the Rev. F. W. Hatch, D. D.

The Convention was called to order by the Bishop at the close of the services. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary both being absent, by the provisions of Section 2 of Canon X, the duties of the Secretary devolved upon the Secretary of the Standing Committee, the Rev. Wm. H. Hill, who acted as such, and, with the approbation of the Convention, appointed the Rev. E. D. Cooper his assistant.

The roll of Clergy entitled to seats in this Convention being called, the

following answered to their names and took their seats:

The Right Rev. Wm. INGRAHAM KIP, D. D., Rev. James W. Capen, Rev. Orange Clark, D. D., Rev. Edmund D. Cooper, Rev. Elijah W. Hager, Rev. Frederick W. Hatch, D. D., Rev. William H. Hill, Rev. David F. Macdonald, Rev. J. Avery Shepherd, Rev. John L. Ver Mehr, L. L. D.

The list of Parishes was then called, and the following were found to be

represented:

Emmanuel Church, Coloma; Emmanuel Church, Grass Valley; Grace Church, Sacramento; Grace Church, San Francisco; St. John's Church, Stockton; St. Paul's Church, Benicia; Trinity Church, Nevada.

A Constitutional quorum of both Orders being present, the Convention

was declared duly organized.

The Bishop then appointed the following Committees:

On the Incorporation and Admission of New Churches:—Rev. Messrs-Hager and Macdonald, and Messrs. Harmon, of Sacramento, and Turner, of San Francisco.

On the Credentials of Lay Delegates:—Rev. Drs. Hatch and Ver Mehr, and Messrs. Caswell, of Nevada, and Ferris, of Stockton.

The following Parishes applied for admission into union with the Convention, and their papers were referred to the Committees, viz.:

St. John's Church, Fremont, Santa Clara County; Christ Church, Auburn, Placer County, and Trinity Church, Folsom, Sacramento County.

The Bishop then read the following

ADDRESS.

My Brethren of the Clergy and Laity:

For the first time since the organization of the Church in this Diocese, you have been called to assemble as a Special Convention. Widely separated as our Parishes are from each other, I am well aware that it is at great personal sacrifice both Clergy and Laity can leave their homes, and particularly at this season, when the facilities for traveling are diminished, gather at any one place in the Diocese. I would not, therefore,

without some urgent reason, issue any summons which should call you

together.

In the present case, however, I am relieved of all responsibility. In the end of November, I received a request "to call a Special Convention of the Diocese of California at as early a date as might be convenient for me to preside in the same." A copy of this paper will be handed to the Secretary to be published in the Convention report. This request was signed by every Clergyman now in the Diocese having a seat in Convention,* and by members of the Vestry of every Parish (with one exception), in union with the Convention. Members of the vestries of two other Parishes, which had been organized since the last Annual Convention, and which have just asked for admission into the Diocese, had also added their names. In complying, therefore, with this request, I felt that I was responding to the almost unanimous voice of the Diocese.

There was, in addition, my brethren, another consideration of a personal nature to myself, which caused this request to harmonize with my own views and feelings. It will not be in my power to be with you at the Annual Convention of the Diocese in May next. An absence of now more than three years from my former residence at the East, renders it necessary that I should be there in the end of May, to attend to some matters of private business. I shall be obliged, therefore, to return to the Atlantic States (Providence permitting), by the steamer of April 20th. I am happy, therefore, to avail myself of this opportunity to meet you once more united as a council of the Church.

Notices were issued on the 5th of December for the Special Convention, and this day was chosen, thus affording two months for the preparation and careful consideration of any business which it may be judged expedient to bring before you.

And now, brethren, I commend you, in all your deliberations, to Him "who by His Holy Spirit did preside in the councils of the blessed Apostles, and has promised, through His Son Jesus Christ, to be with His Church to the end of the world."

The following is the Request for the Special Convention referred to in the address of the Bishop:

^{*} The only Clergymen in any way connected with the Diocese whose names were not signed, are the Rev. C. B. Wyatt, absent in the Atlantic States, and the Rev. Joseph S. Large, (suspended.)

[†] Christ Church, Auburn, and Trinity Church, Folsom.

To the RIGHT REV. WM. INGRAHAM KIP, D. D.,

Missionary Bishop of California:

RIGHT REVEREND AND DEAR SIR:—The undersigned, Presbyters and Lay Members of the Church in California, respectfully request of you to call a Special Convention of the Diocese of California, at as early a date as may be convenient for you to preside in the same.

San Francisco, Nov. 5, 1856.

CLERGY.

Rev. James W. Capen,
Rev. Edmund D. Cooper,
Rev. Orange Clark, D. D.,
Rev. Elijah W. Hager,
Rev. James W. Hatch, D. D.,
Rev. William H. Hill,
Rev. David F. Macdonald,
Rev. J. Avery Shepherd,

Rev. John L. Ver Mehr, L. L. D.

PARISHES.

Christ Church, Auburn.—R. D. Hopkins, John Russell.

Emmanuel Church, Coloma.—George Searle, P. B. Fox, H. W. Miller.

Emmanuel Church, Grass Valley.—Melville Atwood, G. A. Montgomery,
St. George Scarlett, C. J. Lansing, James Walsh.

Grace Church, Sacramento.—J. F. Montgomery, M. D., C. Theo. Hopkins, Jos. W. Winans, P. B. Cornwall, C. I. Hutchinson, F. W. Hatch, Jr., L. F. Reed, Jas. L. English, J. B. Harmon, Samuel Youngs, Jno. S. Bein.

Grace Church, San Francisco.—David S. Turner, J. D. Farwell, Stephen Smith, R. J. Vandewater, Wm. Blanding, Kenneth McLea.

Church of the Sacraments, Sacramento.—Henry Hare Hartley, Charles D. Judah, Thos. M. Logan, M. D.

St. John's Church, Oakland.—John F. Schander, Andrew Williams, Rob't Worthington, E. A. Suwerkrop.

St. John's Church, Stockton.—R. K. Eastman, B. Walker Bours, John Ferris, R. Manning, Allen Lee Bours, Lewis M. L. Hickman.

St. John's Church, Marysville.—W. Wilson Smith, W. P. Thompson, John W. Reins.

St. Paul's Church, Benicia.—Paul K. Hubbs, Joseph Tuttle, John Currey, Eugene Van Ness, U. S. A., T. Jefferson Cam, U. S. A.

Trinity Church, Nevada.—Chas. W. Mulford, Thos. H. Caswell, J. H. Gager.

Trinity Church, Folsom.—A. C. Donaldson, James S. Meredith.

The Bishop then called the Rev. O. Clark, D. D., President of the Standing Committee, to the Chair, and retired from the Convention.

The Rev. Mr. Hill then offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to consider and report to this Convention—

- 1. Whether the Diocese of California has power, under the provisions of Canon II of the General Convention of 1844, to elect a Bishop; and if so, whether such election be at this time expedient.
- 2. What, if any, measures should be adopted if a Bishop be now elected, to create an Episcopal Fund, sufficient for the partial or entire support of the Bishop, and to recommend such course as to them may seem best calculated to secure such object?

The Chair appointed Rev. Messrs. Hill and Capen, and Hon. Paul K. Hubbs as such committee.

The Convention then adjourned until 7 o'clock P. M.

Evening Session-7 o'clock P. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

Rev. Mr. Hager, from the Committee on the Incorporation and Admission of New Churches, submitted the following

REPORT:

The Committee on the Incorporation of Churches, respectfully report the organization in accordance with the Canons, of St. John's Church, Fremont, Santa Clara County; Trinity Church, Folsom, and Christ Church, Auburn, and recommend that they be received into union with the Convention.

E. W. HAGER.
DAVID F. MACDONALD,
JOHN B. HARMON,
DAVID S. TURNER,

Committee.

The report was adopted, and St. John's Church, Fremont, Santa Clara County; Trinity Church, Folsom, Sacramento County; and Christ Church, Auburn, Placer County, were received into union with the Convention.

Rev. Dr. Hatch, from the Committee on the Credentials of Lay Delegates, submitted the following

REPORT:

Your Committee beg leave to report that they have examined the Credentials of Lay Delegates, and find that the following gentlemen are entitled to seats in the Convention, viz.:

CHRIST Church, Auburn	Messrs. W. T. Henson,	
OHRIST Ondion, Manual	*R. D. Hopkins, and	
	Wm. H. Martin.	
EMMANUEL CHURCH, Coloma	Messrs. * George Searle,	
Dimaroll Official, Colombia	*Erastus Woodruff, and	
· ·	* Wm. H. Decker.	
Emmanuel Church, Grass Valley	Messrs. Melville Atwood,	
DAMANUEL OHUROH, Grand 1 and J 1 1 1 1 1	*Richard Homfray, and	
	Geo. A. Montgomery.	
GRACE CHURCH, Sacramento	Messrs. *Joseph W. Winans,	
GRACE CHURCH, Dactamentos	*John B. Harmon, and	
	*John S. Bein.	
GRACE CHURCH, San Francisco	Messrs. * William Blanding,	
Chaos Onotion, State 21	*David S. Turner, and	
	Stephen Smith.	
St. John's Church, Fremont, Santa Clara C	oMessrs. K. W. Canfield,	
DI. Wolling Officially Executive Control of the Con	D. L. Gibbons, and	
	S. O. Putnam.	
St. John's Church, Stockton,	Messrs. *C. D. Gibbes,	
,	*John A. Ferris, and	
	*Robert K. Eastman.	
St. Paul's Church, Benicia	Messrs. T. J. Cram,	
	E. W. McKinstry, and	
	*Paul K. Hubbs.	
TRINITY CHURCH, Nevada City	Messrs. *Thos. H. Caswell,	
	C. T. Overton, and	
	Charles Marsh.	
TRINITY CHURCH, Folsom	Messrs. *James S. Meredith and	
	*A. C. Donaldson,	
All of which is respectfully submitted.		
F. W. HATCH, Chairman.		
	J. L. VER MEHR,	
	JOHN A. FERRIS, Committee.	

On motion, the report was adopted, and upon calling the list of Delegates as reported, those whose names are printed in Italics were found to be present and took their seats as members of the Convention.

THOS. H. CASWELL,

Rev. Mr. Hill, from the Committee appointed at the Morning Session, then read the following

REPORT:

The Committee to whom was referred a resolution of this Convention, instructing them to inquire "whether the Diocese of California has power, under the provisions of Canon II of the General Convention of 1844, to elect a Bishop; and if so, whether such election be at this time expedient," respectfully report:

1. As to the power. The Canon referred to in the resolution, which is the only one governing our action, provides as follows: "To entitle a Diocese to the choice of a Bishop by the Convention thereof, there must be at the time of such choice, and have been during the year previous, at least six officiating presbyters therein, regularly settled in a parish or church, and qualified to vote for a Bishop; and six or more parishes represented in the Convention electing."

As more than six parishes are represented by Lay Delegates in this Convention, we need make no further inquiries, so far as the latter provision of the Canon is concerned. We have only to ascertain, therefore, whether "at least six officiating presbyters" are now, and "have been during the year previous, regularly settled in a parish or church and qualified to vote for a Bishop." We understand that in the case of the election of Bishop Rutledge in the Diocese of Florida, and Bishop Lee in that of Iowa (in which last case the point was particularly raised, and affirmatively passed upon by the assenting Bishops and Standing Committees), it was determined as the true meaning of the provision we have cited, 1st, that missionaries laboring in a duly organized parish were to be counted as "officiating presbyters regularly settled in a parish or church," and 2d, that in making up the twelve months of time, it was not necessary that all thereof should be spent in a parish or the diocese by the same clergyman, provided no interregnum occurred, or the number of officiating presbyters was not, by changes or removals, reduced below the canonically prescribed number. Thus, if the Rev. Mr. A. were regularly settled in a parish, and officiated therein from the 1st of January to the 1st of July, or any other period of the year, and should then cease laboring therein, either by death, removal or other cause, but should immediately be succeeded in the parish or diocese by the Rev. Mr. B., who should remain and officiate therein during the remainder of the year, such continuous labor and presence of the two would count as one presbyter "during the year," for all the purposes of this Canon. And further, that a temporary absence from a parish, with intent to return, does not affect the question of residence therein. Such being, as we understand, the meaning of Canon II of 1844, as decided in the two cases we have cited, it only remains for us to inquire, as a matter of fact, whether the Diocese of California is practically within its provisions.

On the 1st day of January, 1856, the following presbyters were "regularly settled in parishes or churches," or officiating as missionaries in this diocese, viz.: Rt. Rev. Wm. Ingraham Kip, D. D., as Rector of Grace Church, San Francisco; Rev. James W. Capen, Minister of Emmanuel Church, Coloma, and Missionary; Rev. Elijah W. Hager, Rector of St. John's Church, Marysville; Rev. William H. Hill, Minister of Trinity Church, Nevada and Emmanuel Church, Grass Valley, and Missionary; Rev. Joseph S. Large, Rector of St. John's Church, Stockton; Rev. Horace L. E. Pratt, Rector of Grace Church, Sacramento; Rev. E. W. Syle, Minister of St. John's Church, Oakland, and Missionary; and Rev. Christopher B. Wyatt, Rector of Trinity Church, San Francisco. Besides these, were the Rev. J. Avery Shepherd, and the Rev. John L. Ver Mehr, L.L. D., who were at the time, and have been since, Rectors of Church Schools; the Rev. Orange Clark, D. D., then without Parochial charge, but officiating occasionally in vacant parishes; and the Rev. David F. Macdonald, Missionary at Benicia, but only in Deacon's Orders. The above named presbyters are still "regularly settled" and "officiating in the Diocese," except the Rev. Mr. Syle, who left for China in February, 1856; the Rev. Mr. Pratt, who returned to the East in December 1856, and the Rev. Mr. Large, who is, and has been for several months, without Parochial charge. The following Presbyters have been added to the list since January 1st, 1856, viz.: Rev. F. W. Hatch, in June, 1856, late Missionary at Auburn and Folsom, and now Minister of St. John's Church, Marysville; Rev. E. D. Cooper, in August, Missionary at Grass Valley and Nevada; Rev. D. F. Macdonald, ordained to the Priesthood in November, and now the Missionary at Coloma. The Rev. Dr. Clark has also become, and is now, the Rector of the newly organized parish of St. John's Church, Fremont, Santa Clara County.

This simple statement of facts, will, we think, fully justify the conclusion to which we have come, and which we have embodied in a resolution: that "the Diocese of California has power, under the provisions of Canon II of the General Convention of

1844, to elect a Bishop."

2. We were to inquire and report, whether such election, if practicable, would be expedient? We feel constrained to give an affirmative answer. While deeply grateful to the General Convention of 1853, for its election of a Missionary Bishop for our State, and while desiring to express, as we do, our entire satisfaction with the Episcopal labors and conduct of our excellent Chief Pastor, and not doubting, but fully believing and hoping that he will be the unanimous choice of this Convention, we still think the time has come for a change of our relations, and that we are not only entitled to, but should immediately elect our Diocesan Bishop. We regret that, as yet, we have no Episcopal Fund, and that for an indefinite period (brief we trust), our Bishop must still be burdened with the cares of Parochial, as well as Episcopal duty. But we believe, that when our Bishop is emphatically our own, and has determined, in accepting of our election, to make this important State and Diocese his future home, a feeling of Christian love and zeal, to say nothing of Diocesan pride, will stir up the minds and hearts of our men of means, and of all who love our Holy Church, for her quietness, and strength, and conservativeness, to make immediate provisions for the creation of a Fund, ample to relieve the Bishop from dependence, either upon a Missionary allowance from the East, or a Rector's salary in the Diocese. We therefore unhesitatingly recommend an election at this Convention.

As we have not time to mature and report any suitable measures in accordance with the 2d resolution referred to us, we recommend the appointment of a committee to consider that whole subject, and to report thereon at the Annual Convention in May next.

In conclusion, we offer the following resolutions for the consideration of the Convention:

1. Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, this Diocese has power, under Canon II of the General Convention of 1844, to elect a Bishop; that such election is expedient at this time, and that we proceed forthwith to the same.

2. Resolved, That a committee of two Clergymen and three Laymen be appointed to take into consideration the question of providing for the support of the Bishop of the Diocese, and to report such measures, as to them may seem best, to the next Stated Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. H. HILL, J. W. CAPEN, PAUL K. HUBBS, Committee.

The report was adopted, and a division being called for, the question was put on the first resolution reported by the committee, as follows:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, this Diocese has power, under Canon II of the General Convention of 1844, to elect a Bishop; that such election is expedient at this time; and that we proceed forthwith to the same.

A vote by orders being called for, this resolution was adopted unanimously, by the following vote:

CLERGY—Ayes: Rev. Messrs. Capen, Cooper, Clark, Hager, Hatch, Hill, Macdonald, Shepherd and Ver Mehr—9. Noes: none.

LAITY—Ayes: Emmanuel Church, Coloma; Emmanuel Church, Grass Valley; Christ Church, Auburn; Grace Church, Sacramento; Grace Church, San Francisco; St. John's Church, Stockton; St. Paul's Church, Benicia; Trinity Church, Folsom; Trinity Church, Nevada—9. Noes: none.

The second resolution was then adopted without a division, and the Chair appointed, as the committee ordered, Rev. Messrs. Hill and Hager, and Messrs. Winans, of Sacramento; Turner, of San Francisco, and Hopkins, of Auburn.

Rev. Dr. Hatch then nominated for election as the Bishop of the Diocese, the Right Rev. Wm. Ingraham Kip, D. D., the present Missionary Bishop of California. Hon. Paul K. Hubbs, of Benecia, seconded the nomination. Before proceeding to the ballot, the President called upon the Convention to unite in silent prayer for the direction and guidance of the Great Head of the Church. The suggestion met with immediate compliance, after which oral prayers were added by the President.

The Chair appointed Mr. Bein, of Sacramento, as Teller for the Clerical vote, and the Rev. Mr. Macdonald for the Lay vote.

The roll was then called, and the ballots deposited. Upon counting the same, it appeared that nine Clerical and nine Lay votes were cast, being all present in the Convention, and that all were for the Right Rev. Wm. Ingraham Kip, D. D.

Whereupon the Right Rev. Wm. Ingraham Kip, D. D., was declared unanimously elected as Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of California.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the President and Secretaries of this Convention be a committee to inform the Right Rev. Wm. Ingraham Kip, D. D., of his unanimous election as the Bishop of this Diocese.*

An election by ballot being unanimously dispensed with, it was, on motion of the Secretary,

Resolved, That the Rev. J. Avery Shepherd and the Rev. E. W. Hager be, and they are hereby elected members of the Standing Committee, in the place of the Rev. H. L. E. Pratt, removed from the Diocese, and the Rev. Joseph S. Large, incapacitated to serve.

^{*} A copy of the letter prepared and forwarded to the Bishop, will be found in Appendix A.

The following resolutions were successively offered by the Secretary, and adopted:

Resolved, That the Acting Secretary of the Convention be instructed to procure the printing of 480 copies of the Journal of this Convention, and that the Treasurer be authorized to pay for the expense of the same, on the certificate of the Secretary.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several Rectors and Parishes in the Diocese, to make a collection in aid of the Diocesan Fund, at an early day, and to transmit the proceeds to the Treasurer.

Resolved, That the Treasurer be authorized and instructed to defray the necessary expenses to which the Secretary of the Standing Committee may be subjected in pursuance of the action of this Convention—the certificate of the Secretary being his warrant for the amount.

By desire of the Convention, John B. Harmon, Esq. (whose guest the Bishop was), waited upon him with the request that he would return to the Convention, where he was received by the members standing, and informed by the President of his unanimous election as Bishop of the Diocese.

The Bishop responded with a brief and feeling address, at the close of which the unanimous request of the Convention was made that he would furnish the substance of the same for insertion in the journal.

ADDRESS.

Called unexpectedly, my Brethren, by your request, to meet you once more in this Convention, I am happy to avail myself of the opportunity to thank you for the mark of confidence you have given by the unanimous election which your President has just announced to me. It is not the mere absence of any dissenting voice which causes me to regard it with so much satisfaction. It is the hearty feeling which has characterized all your proceedings, and which, since the first calling of this Convention, has been displayed in the expressions volunteered to me, not by the Clergy only, but by the Laity also, in every part of the Diocese. You have now officially placed on record a declaration of these feelings, and I regard the manner in which it has been done as a compensation for the labors and trials incident to this office, during the last three years.

This endorsement of the course I have pursued is the more valuable from the peculiar circumstances in which we have been placed. I have no hesitation in saying, that the difficulties which surround us in laying the foundation of the Church in this portion of the Pacific coast, are without a parallel in any other region of our country. We have a population, earnest and intellectual, gathered from every quarter of the world in the last few years, as yet strangers to each other, and engaged in the hot and eager struggle after gain. This is a land of intellect, yet of intellect devoted to this world's purposes. It is a land of gold, yet but little of the gold thereof is consecrated to the service of Him whose are the treasures for which men dig and delve. Few, too, will interest themselves in the great interests of the country, for the majority have little intention of founding here their permanent home. Yet to this population, so excitable and fluctuating, we are to bring the Gospel, and ours is the task to endeavor to mould them up into a united and christian people.

But if these things render the work difficult for those who minister in holy things, the difficulties are doubly increased which gather around him who is to act as your Bishop. He is to be the arbiter in every dispute, and the reference for every complaint; and if he cannot remove every evil, remedy every disappointment, and obviate difficulties which are often the result of the folly or the inefficiency of the sufferers, he is denounced as not worthily discharging his high duties. Unlike an old community, there is here no established churchmanship, or even settled religious tone, on which he can fall back.

The spirit of insubordination, too, which reigns around us is liable even to infect the Church. There is a constant need of discipline, and yet the very authority to enforce that discipline must be vindicated against the unruly and the evil. In such a state of things how difficult becomes the duty (inculcated upon him in the consecration service,) to "be so merciful, that he be not too remiss, so minister discipline, that he forget not mercy!"

Under these circumstances, my Brethren, more than three years have passed. They have been the most important years of this Diocese, when the foundation of the Church has been laid, and those principles have been settled, (sometimes not without contest,) which are to guide us in our future course. And now, that your unanimous vote has stamped the approval of the diocese upon my administration in the past, I feel that it is a pledge for your support, should we be fellow laborers in coming days. And what I have been, you will always find me. The warfare in which we are engaged is one of principle, and from that I cannot swerve. Should opposition arise, I can only say to the gainsayer—"With me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment; he that judgeth me is the Lord."

With regard to my acceptance, it is impossible for me at present to give an answer. The decision of this question depends upon considerations which cannot be settled here. On my return to the east I shall be able to

determine; and should it be the will of Providence that we are again to be fellow laborers in this land, I trust when the summer months have passed, we shall be found "with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel."

On motion, it was

Resolved, That after the usual exercises, the Convention adjourn.

The Gloria in Excelsis was then chanted, and after appropriate prayers had been read and the benediction pronounced by the Bishop, the Convention adjourned sine die.

Attest,

ORANGE CLARK,

President of the Convention.

WM. H. HILL, Acting Secretary.

EDMUND D. COOPER, Assistant Secretary.

APPENDIX A.

Copy of the Letter forwarded to Bishop Kip, in pursuance of a resolution of the Convention:

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 6th, 1857.

Rt. Rev. AND DEAR SIR:—The undersigned, President and Secretaries of the Special Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of California, held in Grace Church, in this city, February 5, 1857, were appointed a committee to inform you, that by the unanimous vote of both orders in said Convention, you were duly and canonically elected Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of California.

It is with great pleasure, Rt. Rev. Sir, that we are the medium of this communication to you. We add our individual testimony to this unanimous expression of the Diocese, and congratulate you on the fact that your admirable and conciliatory, yet firm and gentlemanly and Christian administration of your Episcopal functions in our midst, have been such as to call out this spontaneous and united testimony of the satisfaction of the members of the Church—Clerical and Lay—with your past labors as Missionary Bishop. We trust their unanimous wish, that you should be their future Diocesan, may, at as an early a day as may be consistent with your own feelings, be answered by an acceptance of this election.

With our best wishes for your prosperity, temporal and spiritual, in all your future life, We remain, Rt. Rev. and Dear Sir,

Your Servants in the Lord,

ORANGE CLARK, President of the Convention.

WM. H. HILL, Acting Secretary.

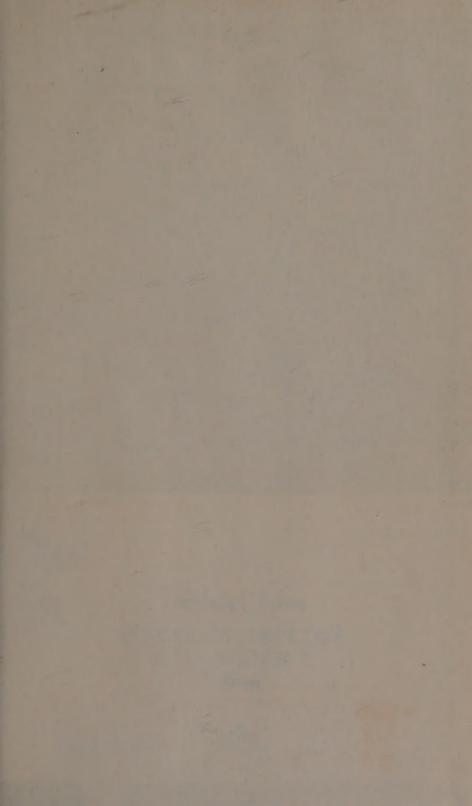
EDMUND D. COOPER, Assistant Secretary.

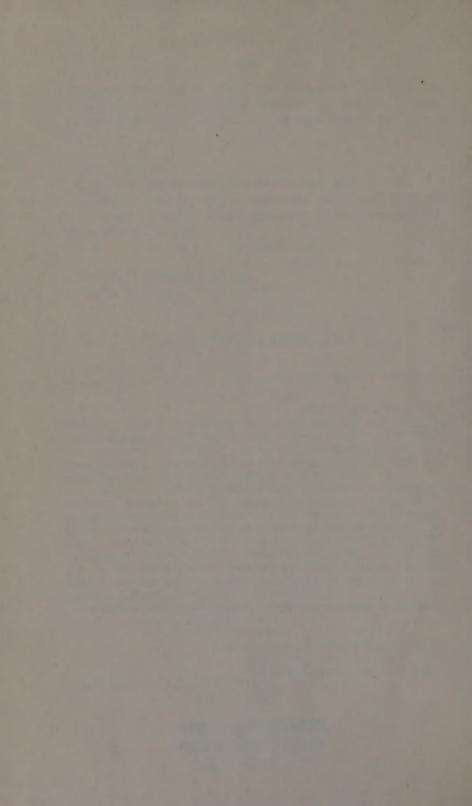
To the Rr. Rev. Wm. Ingraham Kip, D. D.,

Missionary Bishop, etc.



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